

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

AEC-11 AECE-00 SCI-06 ACDA-19 FEA-02 PM-07 NSC-07

SP-03 SS-20 L-03 SAJ-01 DRC-01 AID-20 EB-11 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

/236 W

----- 105415

R 311738Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2922

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08715

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, PARM, GW

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AND VISIT TO BONN OF
STATE SECRETARY KAUL

REF: A. BONN 8375, B. BONN 8226

BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING MAY 28 VISIT TO BONN, INDIAN
FINANCE MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY KAUL HAD TALKS
PRIMARILY WITH ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTER EPPLER.
CONCERNING, INTER ALIA, "IMPLICATIONS OF THE INDIAN
ATOMIC TEST". GERMANS FOUND KAUL'S REFERENCES TO
"PEACEFUL PURPOSES" TO BE UNCONVINCING AND EXPLANA-
TIONS REGARDING SOURCES OF PLUTONIUM TO BE OBSCURE.
BARRING CONTRARY ANGLO-AMERICAN APPROACHES, FRG ID TO
INDIA IS UNLIKELY TO BE AFFECTED, AS IT IS LARGELY TIED
OR CONTROLLABLE. MEANWHILE, PAKISTANI AMB HAS BEEN
PROVIDING GERMANS WITH LOUD AND CLEAR VERSION OF
ISLAMABAD'S VIEWS ON INDIAN EXPLOSION. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN OFFICE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTRY
OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED EMBOFFS IN GENERAL TERMS
CONCERNING MAY 28 VISIT TO BONN OF STATE SECRETARY KAUL
OF THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. KAUL'S PRINCIPAL
INTERLOCUTOR WAS GERMAN AID MINISTER EPPLER. AID
MINISTRY HAD ANHOUNCED IN ADVAHCE THAT "THE IMPLICATIONS
OF THE ATOMIC TEST WOULD BE DISCUSSED" (REF A). AID
MINISTRY OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBOFF THAT KAUL HAD TAKEN
THE LINE THAT THE INDIAN EXPLOSION WAS ONE EXPERIMENT
IN THEIR PROGRAM FOR FINDING PEACEFUL USES FOR NUCLEAR
ENERGY. KAUL SAID THE PLUTONIUM USED WAS A BY-PRODUCT
OF THEIR EXISTING NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM. AID MINISTRY
REP SAID IT WAS UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, WHERE THE PLUTONIUM
CAME FROM AND HOW MUCH THE INDIANS HAD ON HAND. AID MIN
REP QUESTIONED THE INDIANS NEED FOR LARGE AMOUNTS OF
PLUTONIUM IF THEY ARE NOT GOING TO CONTINUE A TESTING
PROGRAM--I.E. AS HE PUT IT, TO MAKE BOMBS.

2. AS HAD FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSION'S ROTH (REF B),
AID MIN REP EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE FRG
WONT CUT BACK ITS AID COMMITMENTS REPEAT COMMITMENTS
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TO INDIA, WHICH ARE PROGRAMMED FOR DM 350 MILLION FOR
CALENDAR 1974. THIS RECALLS EPPLER'S PUBLIC LINE THAT
THE FRG SHOULD NOT LECTURE A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY.

3. AID MIN REP EMPHASIZED THAT THE POLITICAL EVALUATION

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ACTION NEA-16

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SAM-01 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /219 W
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R 311738Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2923

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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OF WHAT, IF ANYTHING, THE FRG SHOULD DO ABOUT THE INDIAN TEST HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, OUR FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES CONTINUE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF COORDINATION OF GERMAN POLICY ON THIS MATTER WITH THE US AND UK. IT IS OF INTEREST THAT THE FIRST PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF "REGRETS" CONCERNING THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST WAS PUBLISHED IN A BRIEF ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE MAY 30 OFFICIAL FRG BULLETIN.

4. FOLLOWING THE KAUL VISIT, EPPLER WAS ASKED IN A TV INTERVIEW HOW THE FRG COULD AVOID THE INDIANS DIVERTING GERMAN AID TO NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. IN REPLY, EPPLER SAID, INDIA PRESENTLY IS MAKING VERY SUBSTANTIAL REPAYMENTS AS A RESULT OF INTEREST ACCRUING FROM GERMAN AID GIVEN IN THE 1960'S. MOREOVER, SAID EPPLER, OTHER ITEMS OF CURRENT FRG AID TO INDIA ARE STRICTLY SPECIFIED --HE NOTED PROJECTS INVOLVING FERTILIZER FACTORY AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS. OTHER AID TO NEW DELHI IS TIED TO INDIAN PROCUREMENT FROM GERMANY. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, EPPLER EXPRESSED ASSURANCE THAT THE FRG COULD WORK EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER GERMAN FUNDS GOING TO INDIA.

COMMENT: THE FRG DOES HAVE MANEUVER ROOM IN ITS AID ACTIVITIES. IT CAN, FOR EXAMPLE, SLOW DOWN DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS, OR SLOW DOWN DISCUSSIONS ON REACHING AGREEMENT ON PROJECTS TO BE SUPPORTED. PREVIOUSLY THIS YEAR, THE INDIANS DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF A RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (BONN 2470) DUE TO THEIR INABILITY TO SET UP THEIR SIDE OF THE PROGRAM. END COMMENT

5. IN THE MEANTIME, THE PAKISTANI AMB HAS BEEN BUSY IN BONN, EXPRESSING ISLAMABAD'S CRITICAL VIEWS ON THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. THE PAK AMB EXPRESSED FEAR TO DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH CONCERNING PAK SECURITY IN VIEW OF INCREASED INDIAN POLITICO/MILITARY STATUS. HE ALSO WORRIED THAT EGYPT, ISRAEL OR IRAN MIGHT WISH TO EMULATE THE INDIAN MOVE OR OBTAIN INDIAN KNOW-HOW FROM NEW DELHI. HE SAID THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN NOISES TO THE EFFECT THAT INDIA AND IRAN

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MIGHT BE PREPARED TO MAKE AN OIL-NUCLEAR KNOW-HOW EXCHANGE.

HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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